

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method, comprising:
2 receiving search criteria entered by a user;
3 performing a single search on a plurality of databases
4 for data records matching the search criteria; and
5 generating search results comprising of the data
6 records matching the received search criteria.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving search
2 criteria further comprises receiving at least one search
3 category.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving search
2 criteria further comprises receiving at least one search
3 keyword.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 passing the received search criteria to a Virtual
3 Business Component (VBC) if the user requested the single
4 search to be performed on at least one external database.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

2 passing the received search criteria from the Virtual
3 Business Component to a search execution business service.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein searching the
2 database further comprises:
3 using a search execution business service to search the
4 plurality of databases for data records matching the search
5 criteria.

1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 sending the search results to a frame so that the
3 search results can be listed on a user interface.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2 displaying content of a search result selected from the
3 search results listed on the user interface.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein performing the
2 single search further comprises:
3 searching at least one attached document for data
4 records matching the search criteria.

1 10. A method, comprising:
2 receiving a search category and a search keyword

3 entered by a user;
4 performing a single search on at least one database and
5 at least one attached document for data records matching the
6 search category and the search keyword; and
7 generating search results comprising of the data
8 records matching the search category and the search keyword.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 passing the received search category and the search
3 keyword to a Virtual Business Component (VBC) if the user
4 requested the single search to be performed on at least one
5 external database.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 passing the received search category and the search
3 keyword from the Virtual Business Component to a search
4 execution business service.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein searching the
2 database further comprises:
3 using a search execution business service to search the
4 at least one database and the at least one attached document
5 for data records matching the search criteria.

1 14. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 sending the search results to a frame so that the
3 search results can be listed on a user interface.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
2 displaying content of a search result selected from the
3 search results listed on the user interface.

1 16. A system, comprising:
2 a user interface to receive search criteria entered by
3 a user;
4 a Virtual Business Component (VBC) to receive the
5 search criteria from the user interface if the user
6 requested a search on at least one external database;
7 a business service to receive the search criteria from
8 the Virtual Business Component, to perform a single search
9 on at least one database and at least one attached document
10 for data records matching the search criteria, and to
11 generate search results comprising of the data records
12 matching the received search criteria.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the search
2 criteria comprises at least one search category.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the search
2 criteria comprises at least one search keyword.

1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the business
2 service sends the search results to the user interface so
3 that the search results can be listed on the user interface.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the business
2 service sends the search results to the user interface
3 displays a search result selected from the search results
4 listed on the user interface.

1 21. A system, comprising:
2 a user interface to receive search criteria entered by
3 a user;
4 a Virtual Business Component (VBC) to receive the
5 search criteria from the user interface if the user
6 requested a search on at least one external database;
7 a business service to receive the search criteria from
8 the Virtual Business Component and to perform a single
9 search on a plurality of databases for data records matching
10 the search criteria.

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1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the search
2 criteria comprises at least one search category.

1 23. The system of claim 21, wherein the search
2 criteria comprises at least one search keyword.

1 24. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a search adapter to adapt to a selected search engine
3 and to generate search results comprising of the data
4 records matching the received search criteria.

1 25. The system of claim 21, wherein the business
2 service sends sending the search results to a search frame
3 so that the search results can be listed on the user
4 interface.

1 26. The system of claim 21, wherein the business
2 service performs the single search on at least one attached
3 document for data records matching the search criteria.

1 27. A machine-readable medium comprising instructions
2 which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
3 perform operations comprising:

4 receiving search criteria entered by a user;
5 searching a database for data records matching the
6 search criteria; and
7 generating search results comprising of the data
8 records matching the received search criteria.

1 28. The machine-readable medium of claim 27, wherein
2 receiving search criteria further comprises receiving at
3 least one search category and at least one search keyword.

1 29. The machine-readable medium of claim 27, further
2 comprising:
3 sending the search results to a search frame so that
4 the search results can be listed on a user interface.

1 30. The machine-readable medium of claim 29, further
2 comprising:
3 displaying in a content area frame a search result
4 selected from the search results listed on the user
5 interface.